

The “EYE”

**April > May > June
2006**

“PRETEXTING”

If you have received a call from someone telling you that you are going to be given a \$2,500 Federal Grant (that you never applied for) and all the caller needs is your checking account number to see that money is deposited in your bank, you have just spoken with a “Pretexter.” Pretexting is the practice of getting your personal information under false pretenses. It is often committed by “information brokers” who sell your information to the highest bidder. Once the con artist obtains your bank account, credit card or social security numbers he will be able to use them to produce counterfeit checks, open bogus credit card accounts or obtain loans.

Locally, the Federal Grant scam is probably the most frequently used set up for “pretexters.” There are a variety of tactics used by the “pretexters.” The caller may claim he/she is with a survey firm and would like to ask you a few questions. They might pretend to be with a credit card security department needing to refund an unauthorized charge and all they need is your credit card information to credit your account. Keep in mind that if they are with your credit card company they already have the information they are asking for. The following are some suggestions that should help you protect yourself:



- ✓ Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you initiate the contact or are dealing with someone you know.
- ✓ Be informed. Ask your financial institution for their policies about sharing your information and any policies directed towards preventing pretexting.
- ✓ Pay attention to your statement cycles. If your statements don't arrive on time follow up with your financial institutions.
- ✓ Review your statements carefully and promptly. Report any discrepancies to your credit card companies or banks.
- ✓ Make family members aware of the dangers of pretexting. Explain that personal information shouldn't be provided to anyone unless authorized by you.
- ✓ Keep all current charge receipts, financial statements, insurance forms and bank checks in a secure location. Shred all financial documents that you intend on discarding.
- ✓ Add passwords to your bank, credit card and phone accounts. Avoid using your mother's maiden name, your date of birth, the last four numbers of your SS or phone number. These are commonly used passwords and would be the first ones the con artist would try.
- ✓ Order a copy of your credit report at least once a year from one of the following credit reporting agencies:

Equifax

1-800-685-1111
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian

1-888-397-3742
P.O. Box 949
Allen TX 75013-2104

Trans Union

1-800-916-8800
P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA 19022

Tornadoes

It's that time of year!



Nebraskans in the eastern part of the state have enjoyed a unusually mild and dry winter. Dry enough that some of us will be looking forward to a nice spring rain shower or two. We need to be careful what we wish for. Spring rain storms can be accompanied by tornadoes! We just have to think back to May of 2004 and the images of the aftermath of the Hallam Tornado to understand the real dangers tornadoes present. FEMA provides the following recommendations to help you prepare and deal with a tornado:

Before a Tornado

- ✓ Conduct tornado drills. Designate an area in the home as a shelter (a windowless interior room, basement or storm cellar).
- ✓ Discuss with family the difference between a “tornado watch” and a “tornado warning” (a “tornado warning” is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar).
- ✓ Have disaster supplies on hand:
 - Flashlight, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
 - First aid kit and manual
 - Emergency food, water and can opener
 - Essential medicines, cash and credit cards
 - Sturdy shoes
- ✓ Develop an emergency communication plan. Discuss how family members can regroup if they become separated from one another. Make sure that all family members know the name, address and phone number of an out-of-state “family contact.” After a disaster it may be easier to complete a long distance call, than a local call.
- ✓ Learn the tornado danger signs. An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if the funnel is not visible. The wind may die down and the air become very still just before the tornado hits. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm so you may see clear, sunlit skies behind the tornado.

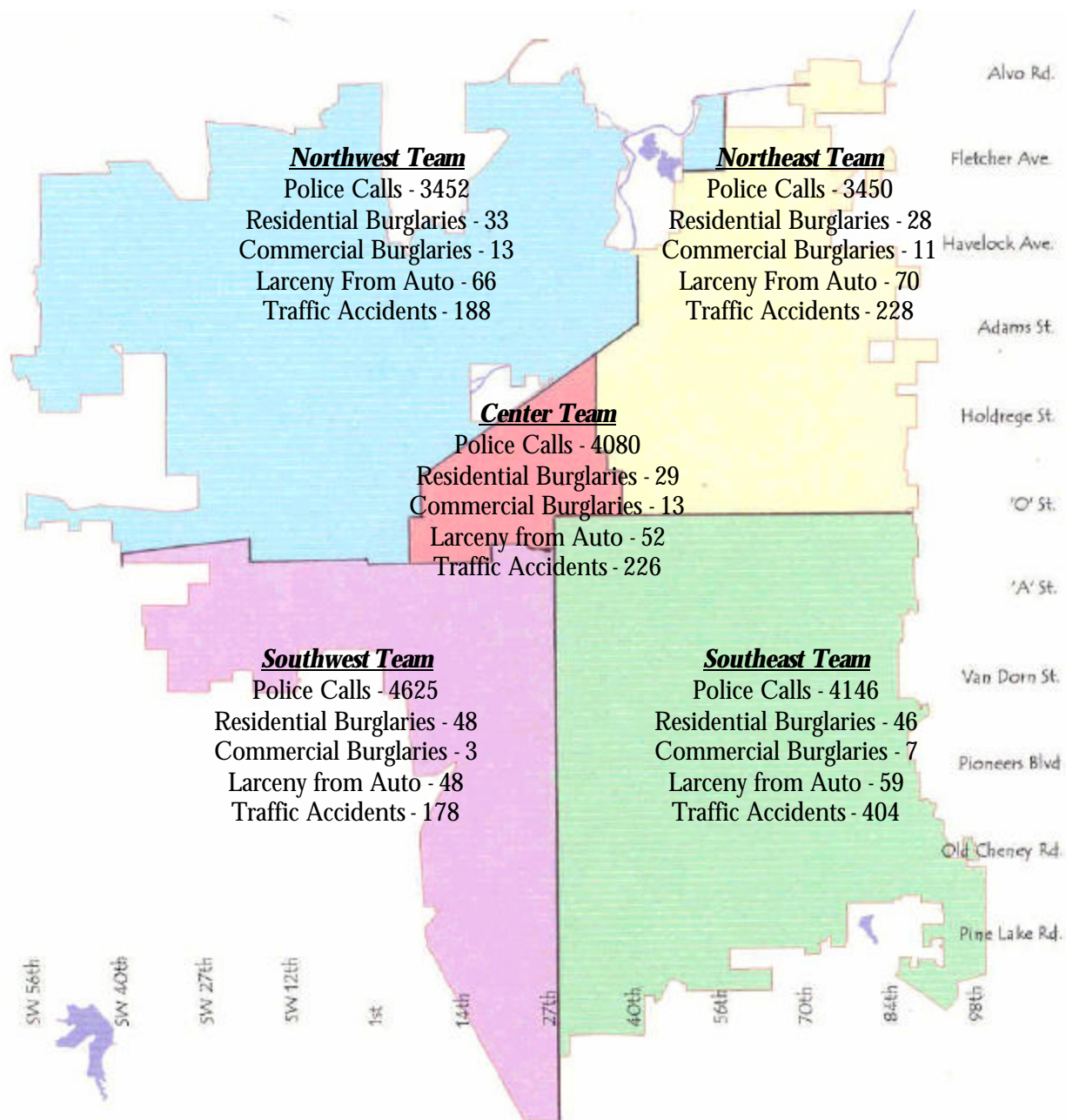
During a Tornado

- ✓ Go to your designated shelter or safe room immediately and get under a sturdy piece of furniture (workbench, desk or heavy table).
- ✓ If you are in your vehicle, do not try to out run the storm. Get out and take shelter in a nearby building or in a ditch if there is no over shelter close.

After a Tornado

- ✓ Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid when appropriate. Call for help.
- ✓ If you smell gas, do not turn on any appliances or switches and leave the building immediately.
- ✓ Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- ✓ Use the telephone only for emergency.
- ✓ Turn on a radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- ✓ Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents, for insurance purposes.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2006 and 2-28-2006



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through February of 2006 there have been 20186 police calls for service across the city. This is 2.2% fewer calls for service than in the same time frame in 2005. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 184, a 33.3% increase from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are down 47.1% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of February 307 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

During the first two months of the year there have been 47 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2005 that gives us a 57.7% decrease in business break-ins. Last year's January and February commercial burglary numbers were unusually high. The police department asks you to continue to pay attention to neighborhood businesses for any unusual people or occurrences and to call the police when you see any suspicious activities.

The “EYE”

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested

Dogs will be Dogs

As the weather gets warmer people spend more time outdoors, as do their dogs. This may cause dog owners to become frustrated with their pet's behavior. It helps if we understand why dogs behave like dogs.

First it is extremely important to bring home a healthy puppy, physically and mentally, and teach them the rules from day one. Unless taught otherwise, dogs will behave like animals. Dogs will perceive the family members as part of his pack. Someone has to be the leader of the pack and the dog should never get that role. Dogs can become aggressive and will protect their property (their food, toys, house and family).

Next you should give your pet some indoor training. They can become aggressive at the sound of a knock at the door or the doorbell. Dogs can be trained to associate those sounds as something pleasant, such as a friend or a neighbor, not a stranger requiring him to protect his pack. Your pet perceives a stranger as a challenge and this can lead to dangerous behavior. To help your dog deal with this, have someone knock or ring the doorbell at least 10 times a day for the first week. Have your pet stay or sit when the doorbell is sounded. You may need to use a leash. When he/she reacts appropriately reward him/her. This may take some time and a lot of practice. If your dog does not respond to your training you may want to seek out an obedience class.

Third, it is very important to socialize your dog. Expose your pet to different environments, people and pets when it is a puppy so he/she can learn that new places are fun and other animals can be new friends. Dogs are social animals and need contact with humans and other pets. Dogs who spend most of their time alone may demonstrate fearful, aggressive or overactive behavior. A dog kept outside on a chain all the time can become aggressive. The underground electronic fencing is becoming popular, but many dogs have learned to ignore the shock collar and leave the yard. Above ground fencing will keep your pet contained and small children away from your dog. A dog can be kept unconfined as long as it is on the owner's property and the owner is outside with the dog and has effective verbal control of the pet.

Unfortunately dog bites do occur, but many could be prevented. Do not place your dog in a situation where he/she may feel threatened. If your dog is found to be responsible for a bite he/she could be placed in one of the following categories: (1) Potentially Dangerous – owner required to keep the dog confined or on a leash at all times, (2) Dangerous – requires fencing and signs to protect the citizens, (3) Vicious – the dog is deemed a danger to the health and safety of the community.

Kris Johnson
Animal Control Education Officer